



The City Of San Diego

**Councilmember Jim Madaffer**  
City Council District 7



## Supporting our Troops

The recent news the war is winding down and many troops are headed home is welcomed news for us all. Despite the major battles being completed, the real work of creating a new democracy now begins. Giving the good people of Iraq a free country following decades of suppression and fear under a maniacal dictator will undoubtedly help this troubled region of the world. We should all be very proud of the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces serving our country in Iraq and wish them a safe return back home to their loved ones. My prayers continue to be with our troops abroad and the President of the United States.

Please visit the [Department of Defense webpage](#) and sign in thanking the men and women of the U.S. military services for defending our freedom.

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## Residential Burglar Operating in the Area



San Diego Police report that a residential burglar has been operating in the Del Cerro and San Carlos areas for the past several weeks. Residents are asked to be on the lookout for a white male with bushy white hair, 5'8" - 5'10" in height and possibly driving a white mini pick-up truck. The suspect apparently enters homes from the backyard between the hours of 1pm and 5pm. If you see anything matching this description, you are asked to contact San Diego Police at 619-531-2000. You may also visit the San Diego Police Department Community storefront at Jackson and Navajo for flyers and more information.

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## City Budget not a Pretty Sight

With the state facing a projected \$35 billion budget deficit, the City of San Diego, along with all other cities in California, will be hit hard. City Manager Michael Uberuaga estimates a \$25-\$30 million budget shortfall for the 2004 Fiscal year. To put it bluntly, because of problems emanating from Sacramento, our City's financial situation looks extremely bleak for the next year. We are in a critical time when we will have to make painful decisions about reducing spending and making cuts to services and programs. I have also heard rumors of fee increases and parking meter costs going up, just as an example. My pledge to you is to be fiscally responsible while continuing as much as planned for District 7 during the tough fiscal times for San Diego. You can also read the Manager's [2004 Fiscal Forecast by clicking this link](#). The City Manager, per the Charter, will be releasing his budget on May 5, 2003.

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## Red Light Cameras



Red Light Cameras - Selected red light cameras throughout the City are expected to be reactivated by the end of the month. At the present time, there is only one photo enforcement intersection planned for our area located at 54th Street and Montezuma Road. [Visit my website at JimMadaffer.com for more information](#) and what I have had to say about the Red Light Photo Enforcement program. This time the program is back for traffic safety over revenue. Let's hope they help save lives and make our roads safer.

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## **Mission Gorge Road area**

We are fortunate to have outstanding corporate citizens such as Superior Ready Mix. Their office, and mine, receives many calls regarding the dirt from trucks along Mission Gorge Road. In the spirit of community good will, we came up with a creative idea - namely, for the company to buy street sweeping equipment. But they didn't stop at one! They actually bought two so that they can sweep Mission Gorge Road a couple times a week and keep it clean. On behalf of everyone who drives on Mission Gorge Road, thank you Superior Ready Mix. In addition, speaking of Mission Gorge Road - as the Trails Condo project continues to progress, you can soon expect to see Mission Gorge Road re-paved from curb to curb. Many of you have commented you noticed the sign I had installed in the center island on Mission Gorge. My warm thanks to project developer Michael Turk for being responsive to the community.

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## **College Area Farmers Market Open For All**

College Area Farmers Market - Check out the new Farmers Market held every Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at 63rd and El Cajon Boulevard in the old Albertson's parking lot. Last week I went to the very first one and was impressed with the variety of what's available including llama rides, a climbing wall, lots of food vendors, flowers and more. Congratulations to the College Area BID for organizing and hosting the weekly Farmers Market.

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## **New Comfort Station Dedication on May 17**

The new Comfort Station (fancy name for a restroom) at Lake Murray Community Park will be formally dedicated on May 17 (although it is already operating). Be sure and join in on the many activities that same day at the 20th annual Lake Murray Community picnic. And while you're at it, join Mayor Dick Murphy and me at 12 noon at the new Comfort Station when we'll recognize the many community leaders who helped make it a reality.

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## **College Rolando Branch Library Getting Closer to Reality**

The new College Rolando Library will soon be out to bid with actual and real construction taking place this summer! More on the new library in future email updates.

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## **Youth Sports Playing Fields**

As our youth sports programs continue to grow in popularity, there are simply not enough playing fields for our young people. I'm working with schools and local community leaders in developing joint-use ball fields. The Fox Canyon area has a new neighborhood park in the formative stages - we are working creatively to secure funding. In September, Crusader Soccer began playing on 3.6 acres of new grass ball fields at Hearst Elementary. At Lewis Middle School in Allied Gardens we will soon begin construction of new ballfields and at Pershing Middle School in San Carlos we are completing negotiations with the contractor for nine acres of grass fields. In Tierrasanta the joint use agreement for Kumeyaay Elementary School was approved at City Council recently and the consultant has completed a set of preliminary drawings for Vista Grande Elementary. We are also proceeding with plans for a new Comfort Station facility at the DePortola Middle School joint-use fields.

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## **Mayor Murphy Back in the Race for Re-election**

And speaking of Mayor Dick Murphy, his announcement at the end of March that he simply wanted to be Mayor and not campaign meant his time as Mayor would have ended just one term of four years - simply not enough time to get accomplished the many things he and others have set out to do. Fortunately, many of you joined me in our efforts to get the Mayor to reconsider. The website I created, [DraftMurphy.com](http://DraftMurphy.com) received a tremendous amount of response and traffic. All of this led to a groundswell of support even Dick Murphy didn't count on. As your Councilmember, I for one am glad he is

planning to run again. Given the many issues confronting our City, we need his steady even-handed leadership right now more than ever.

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